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On motion of Mr. Brown of San Saba, Senate bill No. 638, to be entitled "An act to authorize the county court of Travis county to issue and dispose of the bonds of said county for the purpose of erecting a courthouse and jail in accordance with the provisions of 'an act to lease to the use of Travis county certain land in the city of Austin, on which to erect a courthouse and jail, and to enable said county to build the same,'" approved May 4th, 1874, and to provide for the redemption of the said bonds, was taken up pending the following veto message from His Excellency, the Governor.

The message was as follows :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS, )  
AUSTIN, March 1, 1875. }

*Hon. R. B. Hubbard, President of the Senate :*

I return herewith without my approval Senate bill No. 638, and respectfully ask its reconsideration. This bill provides for the issuance by the county court of Travis county of bonds in the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, to bear ten per cent. per annum interest

and run twenty years, the proceeds of their sale to be devoted to the construction of a courthouse and jail.

I object to this bill for the following reasons:

*First.*—It was the conviction of the Fourteenth Legislature, in which I concurred, that it was expedient to pass a general law authorizing county courts to tax the people for the purpose of raising money to erect and repair courthouses and jails, in view of the late constitutional amendment forbidding special legislation on subjects which may be provided for by general law, and accordingly on the 6th day of April, 1874, a law was passed authorizing a tax not to exceed one-third of one per cent. in any one year for this general purpose, which law is now in force, and is believed to be adequate to the wants of Travis county in this regard.

*Second.*—I see no reason for excepting Travis county from the operation of this general law, which would not equally apply to any other county in the State, and I believe it unwise and inexpedient to authorize bond issues throughout the State for this purpose, and the special legislation that would be required, it is thought would be of extremely doubtful constitutionality.

*Third.*—The one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of bonds provided for by the bill if sold at eighty-five cents nett on the dollar, which is at least as high as it is believed they will sell, will produce one hundred and twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars. In twenty years the interest to be paid on these bonds will amount to three hundred thousand dollars. Add to this the principal one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, also to be paid, and the total four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, is the amount the tax payers of Travis county must pay while realizing only one hundred and twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars. The sinking fund and interest to be paid annually by Travis county, for twenty years, if these bonds are issued, will amount to eighteen thousand dollars, leaving at the end of that time a considerable amount of the principal unpaid. As a financial transaction, I believe this would be unwise and improvident.

*Fourth.*—I believe the amount provided by this bill for building a courthouse and jail extravagant, and that the rate of interest prescribed for the bonds is excessive.

*Fifth.*—On general principles of public policy, the practice of issuing bonds and creating debt by the counties, is

believed to be inexpedient as leading to extravagance, often to speculation, and always to onerous taxation greatly disproportionate to the benefits received.

Very respectfully, RICHARD COKE.

The vote passing the bill was reconsidered. The bill then passed by the following vote, notwithstanding the objections of His Excellency, the Governor:

YEAS—Mr. Speaker, Abnar, Anderson, Bean, Beck, Brown of San Saba, Cardis, Chambliss, Cochran, Davis, Delany, Denman, Donald, Easley, Epperson, Farrar, Freeman, Galvan, Hayes, Helton, Henderson of Smith, Jenkins, Johnson, Kessler, Lindsey, Linn, Manning, Massey, McCuiston, Mitchell, Middleton, Miller, Munson, Nicholson, O'Neal, Oxsheer, Price, Reeves, Rogers, Rosborough, Roberts, Smith of Travis, Smith of Grimes, Storey, Stewart of Montgomery, Stuart of Falls, Stuart of Houston, Swain, Triplett, Von Biberstein, Walker and Watts—52.

NAYS—Messrs. DeMorse, Eastland, Gellatly, Harris, Harrison, Patrick, Patterson, Stephens, Watson and Wortham—10.